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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/300,544	04/27/1999	THOMAS H. QUINN	EI-084-US-02	4587

7590 06/20/2002

HB FULLER COMPANY
PATENT DEPARTMENT
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EXAMINER

MULCAHY, PETER D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1713

DATE MAILED: 06/20/2002

24

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

26

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/300,544

Applicant(s)

QUINN ET AL.

Examiner

Peter D. Mulcahy

Art Unit

1713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit 1713

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alper et al.

The rejection as set forth under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in Paper No. 14 is herein withdrawn.

The rejection as set forth under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is deemed proper and is herein repeated.

Applicants' newly amended claims as well as the remarks filed in support thereof have been fully considered but have been deemed to be not persuasive.

Applicants argue that the amount of tackifier being an unconventionally low amount relative to the base thermoplastic polymer should render the instantly claimed invention patentable. This is not persuasive. The fact of the matter is that while the Alper patent does not specifically direct one to utilize lesser amounts of tackifier than base resin, it is considered prima facie obvious to manipulate the amounts of ingredients so as to

Art Unit 1713

optimize properties. It is acknowledged that applicants' specification has results which show that different compositions in fact have different properties. This is not sufficient to render the instantly claimed invention patentable. The Examiner maintains that one of ordinary skill in the art clearly understands that different compositions have different properties. The Alper patent is generic to various amounts of tackifiers and specific as to the desirability of the specifically claimed tackifiers. There remains no back to back showing of unexpected results comparing the breadth of the instantly claimed invention with that of Alper. As such, the claims are rendered prima facie obvious.

It is acknowledged that the Alper patent mentions disadvantages with respect to copolymers and terpolymers which incorporate olefins. The Examiner maintains however that the mentioned disadvantages do not render the instantly claimed invention patentable. This patent acknowledges the utilization of the claimed olefins in the past and one of ordinary skill in the art has a clear appreciation of the properties associated therewith. As such, the incorporation thereof is prima facie obvious.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter D. Mulcahy, whose telephone number is (703) 308-2449. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Serial No. 09/300,544


-4-

Art Unit 1713

The fax telephone number for this group is (703) 305-3599.

Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2351.

P. Mulcahy:cdc
June 18, 2002


PETER D. MULCAHY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1500